

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 182198

16

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

66607

DRAFTED BY:D/HA/PW:FASIEVERTS

APPROVED BY: D/HA/PWJCFASIEVERTS

S/S- MR ORTIZ

----- 043863

R 012032Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0000

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182198

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT OF VIENTIANE 5046 TO SECSTATE JUL 30

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 05046

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, UNHCR, VS, US

SUBJ: USG RELATIONS WITH UNHCR AND RELATED SUBJECTS

REF: VIENTIANE 5029

1. DURING HIS VISIT TO EMBASSY JULY 29, CASELLA MENTIONED
IN PASSING FACT THAT AN ACCOUNT OF HIS JULY 21 TELECON
FROM VIENTIANE WITH SIEVERTS WAS PASSED BY CARLIN OF US
MISSION GENEVA TO MACE OF UNHCR. THIS RESULTED IN A RE-
BUKE TO CASELLA FROM MACE FOR "GOING OUTSIDE UNHCR CHANNELS."
IN RESPONSE, CASELLA IS TAKING THE LINE (TECHNICALLY
CORRECT) THAT TELECON WAS "NOT A UNHCR CALL" SOMEONE ELSE
WAS TALKING TO SIEVERTS AND MERELY OFFERED CASELLA CHANCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 182198

TO DO THE SAME.

2. CASELLA APPEARED TO SHRUG THIS OFF, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY DESERVES BETTER PROTECTION. HE SAID HIS OPERATING PHILOSOPHY HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO LOOK FOR PARALLEL UNOFFICIAL CHANNELS; THUS HE HAS BEGUN WORKING WITH THE LONG-TIME "UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE" OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN BANGKOK AFTER LEARNING THAT IT WAS THAT REPRESENTATIVE WHO DIRECTED THE TWO VIETNAMESE SEAMEN (REFTEL) TO TRAVEL FROM BANGKOK TO VIENTIANE. HE SAYS HE FINDS THIS REPRESENTATIVE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND WELL WIRED-IN, FULLY AWARE OF HANOI'S THINKING AND APPROACH, ETC., AND INTENDS TO USE HIM MORE AND MORE IN FUTURE.

3. CASELLA ALSO GAVE POL COUNS A SCATHING CLAUSE-BY-CLAUSE REFUTATION OF DEPARTMENT'S MESSAGE TO UNHCR (STATE 172139), WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED BOTH FROM US AND FROM BANGKOK. WHILE HE SAID HE REALIZED ITS PROBABLE NECESSITY IN U.S. DOMESTIC TERMS, HE MAINTAINED THAT STATEMENT IS INACCURATE IN VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING IT SAYS ABOUT UNHCR AND, IN ITS CRITICISM OF THE VIETNAMESE, TOTALLY IGNORES THE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE USG BUILT UP ABOUT THEM DURING MORE THAN TEN YEARS OF WAR. HE USED ANALOGY OF MILITARY OFFENSIVES, WHICH -- AS WE HAVE TOLD THE WORLD -- DRV PREPARED LONG IN ADVANCE A J WHICH, ONCE UNDER WAY, WERE INFLEXIBLE EVEN WHEN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED THEMSELVES. USG SHOULD THEREFORE BE LAST TO SHOW ASTONISHMENT THAT REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE WILL OPERATE SLOWLY IN THE SAME FASHION. HE ALSO SAID IT WAS ENTIRELY UNDERSTANDABLE TO HIM "HOW THE AUTHORITIES IN VIET-NAM CAN MISCONSTRUE" EVERYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH USG AND REPATRIATION. SOMEWHAT GRATUITOISLY, HE REMINDED US THAT THE VIETNAMESE ARE "ARROGANT PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY HAVE WON A WAR."

4. CASELLA ALSO SAID HE UNDERSTANDS RADIO SAIGON HAS TONED DOWN ITS "COME-HOME" PROPAGANDA SOMEWHAT IN RESPONSE TO UNHCR SUGGESTION. (CANNOT CONFIRM FROM HERE.)

5. CONCEPT OF BRINGING POTENTIAL REPATRIATES FROM GUAM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 182198

TO VIENTIANE (VIENTIANE 4926; STATE 173982) IS STILL UNDER STUDY. NO RPT NO INDICATION WHEN IT MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT.

6. CASELLA HAD TWO QUESTIONS, ONE SPECIFIC AND ONE RATHER HYPOTHETICAL, TO WHICH HE WOULD LIKE ANSWERS:

A. HAS TUG SAIGON 240 RETURNED TO SAIGON, AND IF SO WAS ITS RETURN A DELIBERATE USG GESTURE? POL COUNS

WAS FORCED TO SAY HE HAD STILL

SEEN NO REPLY (TO STATE 165315)

ON FIRST POINT AND COULD ONLY SPECULATE THAT ON SECOND POINT ANSWER

WAS NEGATIVE. CASELLA INITIALLY WAS NOT STRONGLY

INTERESTED IN THIS QUESTION (VIENTIANE 4873, PARA 10)

BUT IS NOW; HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO TELL PRG

IT WAS A GESTURE.

B. WOULD USG BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS REPATRIATION,

AMCIT PRISONERS, AND RELATED ISSUES WITH PRG PERSONNEL

ASSIGNED TO UN OBSERVER MISSION IN NEW YORK?

CASELLA BELIEVES CONTACTS THERE WOULD FACILITATE PRO-

GRESS ON SEVERAL ISSUES, ALTHOUGH HE FULLY RECOGNIZES PRG

DESIRE TO DEAL WITH USG BILATERALLY AND RECOGNIZES

AT LEAST PARTIALLY PROBLEMS THAT SUCH CONTACTS WOULD

POSE FOR USG.

7. CORRESPONDENCE WITH AMCITS IN SVN: CASELLA REPEATED THAT

UNHCR CANNOT RPT CANNOT YET RAISE ISSUE OF DELIVERING

MAIL OR PACKAGES. HOWEVER, HE SAID PRG OFFICIALS HAVE

MENTIGNED THAT SVN RED CROSS HAS A REGISTERED CABLE ADDRESS

(VIET-NAM CROSS, SAIGON), WITH CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT

CONCERNED PARTIES IN U.S. ARE FREE TO SEND CABLES THERE.

THERE WOULD BE NO ASSURANCE OF DELIVERY OF MESSAGES TO AMCITS,

BUT AT LEAST MESSAGES WOULD BE GOING TO RIGHT ENTITY IN SVN.

(WE ARE INCLUDING THIS INFORMATION IN A LETTER TO PARENTS

OF JAMES F. LEWIS ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF LETTERS FOR

THEIR SON.)

8. MARINE BODIES: ASSURANCE TO UNHCR THAT BODIES COULD

BE BROUGHT OUT CAME FROM DRV DEPUTY FONMIN NGUYEN CO

THACH.

9. CASELLA'S PLANS: HE NOW INTENDS TO RETAIN HIS BASE IN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 182198

VIENTIANE FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS TO MAKE SURE THAT FLIGHT

OPERATIONS (RETEL) ARE STABILIZED. HE WILL RIDE MOST IF NOT

ALL FLIGHTS HIMSELF, MAINLY BECAUSE EACH FLIGHT GIVES

HIM 60 TO 90 MINUTES ON GROUND FOR TALKS WITH PRG RED

CROSS AND OTHERS AT TAN SON NHUT. AT SOME POINT DURING

THAT PERIOD HE MAY MAKE ANOTHER TRIP TO HANOI.

10. LISTS OF AMERICANS IN SVN: STATE 177640 WITH

INFORMATION ON SEVERAL ADDITIONAL CASES IS MOST USEFUL.

HOWEVER, WOULD STILL LIKE UPDATED, CONSOLIDATED LIST,

PARTICULARLY BECAUSE MOST OF THE JOURNALISTS MENTIONED

IN BANGKOK 10962 HAVE NOW DEPARTED SVN BUT NOT ALL OF

THOSE DEPARTURES ARE KNOWN TO US HERE. IN ADDITION,

REITERATE REQUEST FOR REPEATS OF DEPT'S INITIAL

TELEGRAM ON THIS SUBJECT (EARLY MAY 1975) WHICH LISTED

AMERICANS BY CATEGORY; DELETIONS THEREFROM (SUCH AS HATCHER JAMES); AND REPEAT OF OUR TELEGRAM CIRCA MAY 25 WHICH ADDED WILLIAM J. SMITH ON BASIS OF INFO FROM BERNARD EDINGER OF REUTERS. (ALL OUR FILES BEFORE JUNE 1 DESTROYED OR TRANSFERRED TO THAILAND.) ALSO, BANGKOK LIST DOES NOT INCLUDE MILLER FAMILY, OTHERS OF BAN ME THUOT GROUP, OR LEWIS, AND WE HAVE NEVER RECEIVED PASSPORT DATA ON THEM. (HONG KONG 8684 CONTAINS SAME REQUEST FOR LIST.)

11. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) UPDATED LIST OF AMCITS, AS DESCRIBED PARA 10, AND REPEAT OF MAY 1975 TELEGRAMS MENTIONED THEREIN; (B) INFORMATION TO PASS TO CASELLA IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTIONS IN PARA 6 ABOVE, OR AT LEAST ON TUG SAIGON 240, IF DEPT DEEMS IT ADVISABLE. CHAPMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: DOWNGRADED FROM NODIS TO EXDIS PER MR. ORTIZ S/S-O. UNQTE INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, REPATRIATION, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE182198
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D/HA/PW:FASIEVERTS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750267-0529
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750889/aaaadarf.tel
Line Count: 188
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 VIENTIANE 5029
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <07 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG RELATIONS WITH UNHCR AND RELATED SUBJECTS
TAGS: CASC, PORG, SREF, VS, US, UNHCR
To: BANGKOK HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006